



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Release to the AMs of
Tuesday, November 14, 1944.

Canned salmon, already a scarce item on grocers' shelves, will be even harder to find during the coming months, according to the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries.

The season's pack in Alaska, from which comes 95 per cent of the U. S. supply of canned salmon, was the smallest since 1925. Adding to the scarcity as far as civilians are concerned is the fact that the Government has reserved about two-thirds of the 1944 pack for military and Lend-lease purposes, instead of the 60 per cent set aside for the Government last year.

The Alaska pack this year totaled 4,856,330 cases, compared with 5,428,318 cases in 1943. In addition, about 240,000 cases were packed in the United States, a somewhat smaller than normal production.

The sharpest decline occurred in the valuable red salmon, caught chiefly in Bristol Bay. The pack of this species fell from 1,980,827 cases in 1943 to 1,567,735 this year. Pink salmon, most important species from the standpoint of quantity caught, declined from 2,333,312 to 2,079,306 cases. The pack of other species was as follows: chum, 989,602 cases; coho, 185,946 cases; king, 33,741 cases.